GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2123
ANSWERED ON:05.03.2003
UTILISATION OF FUNDS FOR TELECOMMUNICATION SERVICES
DUKHA BHAGAT

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the funds allocated by the Government for telecommunication services in rural areas have not been fully utilized;

(b) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto;

(c) whether responsibility of the officers has been fixed in this regard;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) the details of rural areas where telecommunication services have not been provided;

(f) whether any review has been undertaken in this regard;

(g) if so, the details thereof; and

(h) if not, the reasons therefor?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY(SHRIMATI S MAHAJAN)

(a) Government has provided Rs. 720 crores in Jan., 2003 as loan in perpetuity without interest liability, for implementation of Village Public Telephones(VPTs) in 2001-02. Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) has actually invested Rs. 6485.71 crores in rural telephony during the year 2001-2002.

(b) to (d): Do not arise in view of the (a) above.

(e) As on 31.1.2003 telephone facility has been provided in 504015 villages of the country by BSNL. BSNL has yet to provide telecom facility in 31074 revenue villages.

(f) to (h): BSNL Plans to provide telecom facility in these 31074 villages by 2003-2004 including 18202 village Public Telephones (VPTs) on satellite media in remote and isolated areas within one year from the date of availability of funds by the Government.